



An Interview with Tushar NP (MScSM '23)

"The program not only equipped me with the essential knowledge and skills for working in this field, but also connected me with a passionate network of like-minded individuals dedicated to creating a sustainable future."

-Tushar NP

What were the job duties of your internship?

As part of my role as an analyst at Quinn & Partners, which is a sustainably consulting firm, my responsibilities included researching on issues provided by our client and data analysis. For example, if the client was facing an implementation problem in sustainability, I researched on the current situation, industry stance, competitors, and what can they do to best solve the problem. Secondly, I conducted primary data cleaning, identified outliers, and presented this information to clients by coordinating with the project manager. Thirdly, I had project management responsibilities as well, which included coordinating meetings, tracking notes and action items, adhering to project timeline, and assigning tasks and responsibilities. Again, I had to present this data to the client as well.

While interning this summer, which skill did you feel you should have known already?

I would have liked to have known more about data analytics before I embarked on the internship. Most of my methods to analyze data and identify outliers were reliant on self-learning from internet. I was required to make educated guesses on what needs to be done. Additionally, I would have wanted to have a basic understanding of data measurements techniques and its different units, especially specific to environmental data. A prior training in that topic would have made a difference. I was required to do business style of writing in my role, which was very different from normal academic writing that we do as a part of our coursework. Hence, I believe that we need to equip ourselves for the transition from academic writing to professional writing.

What is the biggest reward you gained from this internship?

My biggest accomplishment was when I got to know the practical impacts of my research on implementation strategies. The satisfaction of the implementation was a rewarding experience. Another perk was the incredible network of professionals and experts I built in the field. This combination helped me get a comprehensive overview of real-world challenges in the field. This knowledge helped me choose specific electives in my second semester. Now, I have a relatively nuanced perspective on sustainability.

What is the biggest challenge and solution in your industry?

The first challenge is to identify the qualities between clients who have a genuine interest to become more sustainable and the rest of the crop who are just looking at means to greenwash their stakeholders. As a consultant, if you get unluckily paired with the former category, your reputation is associated with their journey forever.

The second biggest challenge is talent retention, given the hectic pace of the consulting industry. Carrying multiple roles in multiple projects can get a bit too much at times for entry level workers. They don't tend to stick around for long.

Lastly, always staying up to date with the latest advancements in the sustainability domain is another challenge, even for the top brass of management consultancy firms.

How does your internship help confirm where you want to go for your future career?

This internship provided me exposure to previously unexplored venues and provided an insight on the potential to consider working in it professionally. For example, I had no previous knowledge on the sustainability focused initiatives and opportunities available in real estate domain, until I observed colleagues work on it and make good progress during my internship. This has removed my scepticism and made me open to new possibilities for full time job, rather than get boxed in to specific roles and industries.